Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of)	
)	
CenturyLink's Petition for Limited Waiver)	WC Docket No. 08-71

CENTURYLINK'S REPLY COMMENTS IN SUPPORT OF ITS PETITION FOR LIMITED WAIVER

On January 16, 2013, CenturyLink filed a petition for a limited waiver of section 54.301(e) of the Commission's rules¹ so that the company may file local switching support (LSS) true-up data for calendar year 2011 for two subsidiary company study areas that inadvertently were excluded from CenturyLink's earlier-filed, company-wide submission. The Wireline Competition Bureau publicly noticed the petition for comment and requested opening comments by February 22, 2013.² No comments have been filed regarding the petition, and it is thus unopposed. In turn, given the absence of opposition to the petition and for the reasons stated in the petition, CenturyLink urges this Commission to expeditiously grant the requested relief.

In its petition, CenturyLink set out the special circumstances that exist and the public interest that would be served that support granting the requested waiver. Granting the requested relief would be consistent with relief the Commission has previously granted where petitioners only missed a high-cost support filing deadline by a few days and it was the result of minor ministerial, clerical or procedural errors.³ Further, granting the relief requested is especially warranted here where the effect of the missed deadline would result in not only refunding

² Public Notice, Wireline Competition Bureau Seeks Comment on the CenturyLink Petition for Waiver of a High-Cost Universal Service Filing Deadline, DA 13-87, rel. Jan. 23, 2013.

¹ 47 C.F.R. § 54.301(e).

³ See, e.g., The Telecommunications Access Policy Division Of The Wireline Competition Bureau Grants Petitions Requesting Waiver Of Various High-Cost Universal Service Filing Deadlines, Public Notice, 27 FCC Rcd 13507 (2012).

support already received and utilized but also potentially would result in the loss of all future LSS-based frozen support for these two study areas. This would significantly hinder CenturyLink's ability to provide quality service to its customers in the rural areas in Colorado and Idaho at issue here.

In contrast to this harm if the requested relief is not granted, no party will be adversely affected if the relief is granted, as further evidenced by the fact that no party has filed comments opposing the requested relief. Additionally, CenturyLink promptly remedied its procedural error and has revised its filing processes to ensure that the error triggering this missed filing deadline does not recur. On balance, the public interest is better served in granting the relief sought.

For these reasons as explained in its petition and because the petition has not been opposed, CenturyLink respectfully requests that the Commission grant the petition and provide the requested relief as soon as practicable.

CenturyLink also supports the similar petitions for waiver of the 2011 LSS true-up deadline filed by other carriers. ⁴ Each carrier has demonstrated that the missed deadline was the result of a minor ministerial, clerical, or procedural error, has promptly remedied the error, and has demonstrated that the public interest is better served by granting the requested relief. The Commission should grant all of the pending petitions for waiver of Commission Rule 54.301(e).

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⁴ See Jordan Soldier Valley Telephone Company, Petition for Waiver – Expedited Action Requested, filed Jan. 8, 2013; Consolidated Communications of Fort Bend Company, Petition for Waiver – Expedited Action Requested, filed Jan. 11, 2013; FairPoint Communications, Inc., Petition for Waiver to True-Up Local Switching Support, filed Jan. 16, 2013; Micronesia Telecommunications Corporation, Petition for Waiver, dated Jan. 17, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

CENTURYLINK

Melissa E. Newman 1099 New York Avenue, N.W. Suite 250 Washington, DC 20001 202-429-3120 melissa.newman@centurylink.com By: /s/ Tiffany West Smink
Tiffany West Smink
1099 New York Avenue, N.W.
Suite 250
Washington, DC 20001
303-992-2506
tiffany.smink@centurylink.com

Its Attorney

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